

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order:

CHAIRMAN RICK LAIBLE, on January 12, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Rick Laible, Chairman (R)
Sen. Rick Ripley, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Gary Branae (D)
Sen. Taylor Brown (R)
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)
Sen. Dan McGee (R)
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Ryan Zinke (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Casey Barrs, Legislative Branch
Nadine Spencer, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 67, SB 80, SB 81, SJ 8, 1/6/2009

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SJ 8

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:09 **SEN. BOB HAWKS (D), SD 33**, opened the hearing on **SJ 8**,
Urge development of K-20 education shared policy goals.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:52 Sheila Stearns, Commissioner of Higher Education
00:09:06 Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Board of Public
Education
00:10:55 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:12:40 Chairman Laible
00:13:07 Sen. Hawks
00:14:06 Chairman Laible
00:14:13 Sen. Branae
00:14:34 Steve Meloy

Closing by Sponsor:

00:16:22 Sen. Hawks

HEARING ON SB 67

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:17:00 **SEN. RICK LAIBLE (R), SD 44**, opened the hearing on **SB 67**,
Require funding before school rules with fiscal
impact implemented.

00:20:00 Sen. Zinke entered the hearing

Proponents' Testimony:

00:26:42 Elaine Herman, Eagle Forum
00:27:45 Jerry O'Neil, Columbia Falls

Opponents' Testimony:

00:28:10 Steve Meloy

00:34:41 Joyce Silverthorne, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

[EXHIBIT](#)(eds06a01)

00:36:27 Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT

[EXHIBIT](#)(eds06a02)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:42:34 Chairman Laible

00:46:33 Recess

00:54:06 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 81

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:54:25 **SEN. DAN MCGEE (R), SD 29**, opened the hearing on **SB 81**,
Elect Board of Public Education.

[EXHIBIT](#)(eds06a03)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:13:30 Elaine Herman

[EXHIBIT](#)(eds06a04)

01:19:31 Jerry O'Neil, Columbia Falls

01:22:11 Cyndi Forbes, Helena

01:24:20 Becky Stockton, Helena

[EXHIBIT](#)(eds06a05)

01:27:03 Clarice Ryan, Big Fork

Opponents' Testimony:

01:28:35 Steve Meloy

01:36:03 Eric Feaver

01:42:01 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association

01:43:19 Joyce Silverthorne

01:45:03 Sheila Stearns

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:46:15 Elaine Herman
01:46:53 Sen. Ripley
01:47:08 Elaine Herman

Closing by Sponsor:

01:47:36 Sen. McGee

HEARING ON SB 80

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:53:23 **SEN. DAN MCGEE (R), SD 29**, opened the hearing on **SB 80**,
Elect Board of Regents.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:55:39 Becky Stockton
01:57:42 Elaine Hermann

Opponents' Testimony:

01:58:05 Sheila Stearns
[EXHIBIT](#)(eds06a06)

02:07:55 Mitch Jessen, Student Member of the Board of Regents
02:10:49 Joyce Silverthorne
02:11:10 Steve Meloy
02:11:26 Eric Feaver

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

02:12:03 Sen. McGee

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:16 P.M.

NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:00 P.M.

NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([eds06aad.pdf](#))